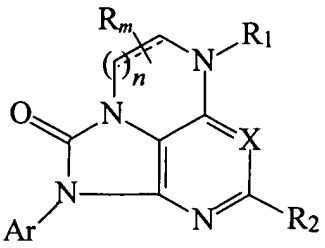
CLAIMS

1. A compound having the following structure:



and stereoisomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:

n is 1 or 2;

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

X is N or CR';

R is an optional substituent which, at each occurrence, is independently C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl C_{1-6}alkylidenyl or C_{1-6}alkylAr;

R_1 is $-C(H)_{0,1}(R_3)(R_4)$;

R_2 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R_3 is hydrogen, keto, C_{1-6}alkyl, mono- or di(C_{3-6}cycloalkyl)methyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, and

R_4 is hydrogen, Ar^1, C_{1-6}alkylAr^1, OAr^1, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, mono- or di(C_{3-6}cycloalkyl)methyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl, C_{3-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxyAr^1, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, thienylC_{1-6}alkyl, furanylC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylthioC_{1-6}alkyl, morpholinyl, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, amino, (C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, (C_{1-6}alkylAr^1)amino, (C_{1-6}alkyl)(Ar^1)amino, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonylC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, sulfonyl(C_{1-8}alkyl), $C(=O)C_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-8}alkyl substituted with phthalimide, Ar^1, OAr^1, $NHAr^1$, $C(=O)Ar^1$, $C(=O)NHAr^1$ or $-C(=O)NH_2$, or a radical of the formula -(C_{1-6}alkanediyl)-Y-$(CO)_{0,1}$-Ar^1 where Y is O, NH or a direct bond, or

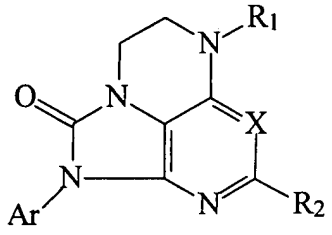
R_3 and R_4 taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl, a C_{5-8}cycloalkenyl, a C_{3-12}heterocycle, phenyl, naphthyl, or a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl fused to Ar^1, each of which being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl;

Ar is phenyl, naphthyl or an aromatic C_{3-12}heterocycle, each being optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, O(trifluoromethyl), hydroxy, cyano, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, phenyoxy, benzoxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, (C_{1-6}alkyl)(C_{1-6}alkanoyl)amino, or piperidinyl, or wherein two substituents taken together are a C_{1-6}alkylidinyl or a C_{1-6}alkylidenyl having one, two or three carbon atoms replaced with a heteroatom individually selected from oxygen, nitrogen or and sulfur; and

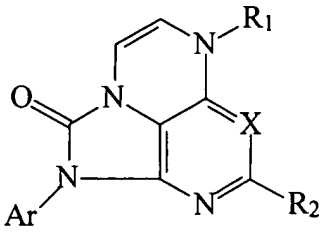
Ar^1 is phenyl, naphthyl or an aromatic C_{3-12}heterocycle, each of which being optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl sulfonyl (C_{1-6}alkyl) and C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with morpholinyl.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein *n* is 1.

3. The compound of claim 2 having the structure

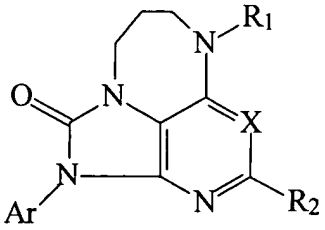


4. The compound of claim 2 having the structure



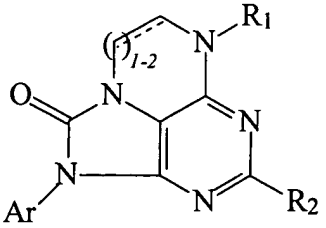
5. The compound of claim 1 wherein *n* is 2.

6. The compound of claim 5 having the structure

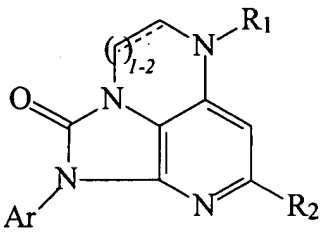


7. The compound of claim 1 wherein *m* is 0.

8. The compound of claim 7 having the structure:

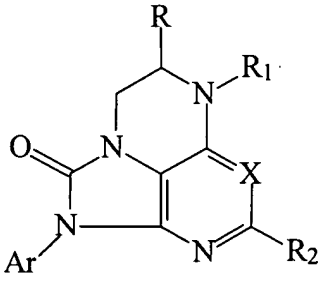


9. The compound of claim 7 having the structure:

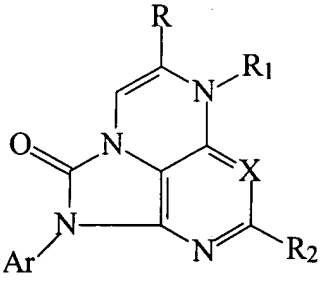


10. The compound of claim 1 wherein *m* is 1.

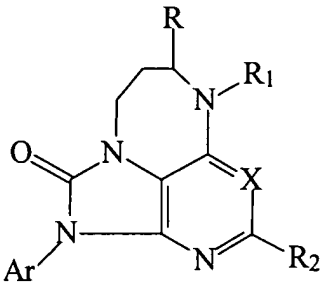
11. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



12. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



13. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



14. The compound of claim 1 wherein X is CR' and R' is hydrogen.

15. The compound of claim 1 wherein X is N.

16. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl.

17. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is methyl or ethyl.

18. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is ethyl.

19. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methoxyphenyl, 2-bromo-4-methylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-bromophenyl, 2-bromo-4-isopropylphenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,6-dimethyl-4-bromophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2-methoxyphenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 3,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2,4,6-trifluorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-N(ethyl)$_2$phenyl, 2-bromo-4-(OCF_3)phenyl, 4-dimethylamino-2-methylpyrdin-3-yl, 4-dimethylamino-6-methylpyridin-3-yl, 4-dimethylamino-pyridin-3-yl. 4-N(CH_3)(Ac)phenyl, 5-methylisoxazol-3-yl, 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl or 3,4-ethylenedioxyphenyl.

20. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,6-dimethyl-4-bromophenyl, 2-bromo-4-methylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl or 4-chlorophenyl.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein R_1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, -CH(ethyl)$_2$, -CH(n-propyl)$_2$, -CH(n-butyl)$_2$, -$CH_2CH_2OCH_3$, -CH(methyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(ethyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(n-propyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(n-butyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(tert-butyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(CH_2OCH_3)$_2$, -CH(benzyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(4-chlorobenzyl)(CH_2OCH_3), -CH(CH_2OCH_3)($CH_2CH_2SCH_3$), -CH(ethyl)(CH_2Obenzyl), -CHC≡CH, -CH(methyl)(ethyl), -CH(methyl)(n-propyl), -CH(methyl)(n-butyl), -CH(methyl)(n-pentyl), -CH(methyl)($CH_2CH_2CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$), -CH(ethyl)(n-propyl), -CH(ethyl)(n-butyl), -CH(ethyl)(n-pentyl),), -CH(n-propyl)(n-butyl), -CH(n-propyl)(n-pentyl), cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclohexyl, 2-methylcyclohexyl, 3-methylcyclohexyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl (1 and 2), benzyl, 2-chlorobenzyl, -CH(methyl)(benzyl), -CH(ethyl)(benzyl), -CH(n-propyl)(benzyl), -CH(n-butyl)(benzyl), -CH_2(cyclopropyl), -CH_2(cyclobutyl), -CH_2CH(methyl)CH_2CH_3, -CH_2CH(ethyl)CH_2CH_3, -$CH_2C(methyl)_3$, -CH_2C≡CH, -CH_2C(=O)ethyl, -C(=O)cyclopropyl, -C(=O)NHbenzyl, -C(=O)methyl, -C(=O)benzyl, -C(=O)phenyl, -C(=O)ethyl, -C(=O)CH_2C(=O)Oethyl, -C(=O)CH(phenyl)ethyl, C(=O)pyridyl, -C(=O)(4-N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl, -C(=O)CH_2Omethyl, -C(=O)CH(ethyl)$_2$, -C(=O)n-butyl, -C(=O)CH_2CH_2(methyl)$_2$, -C(=O)n-propyl, -C(=O)CH_2CH_2phenyl, -CH_2pyridyl, -CH_2CH_2NHphenyl, -CH_2CH_2C(=O)Oethyl, -$CH_2CH_2CH_2$phenyl, -CH_2CH_2-N-phthalimide, -$CH_2CH_2CH_2$C(=O)Oethyl, -CH_2CH_2Oethyl, -CH_2CH(methyl)$_2$, -CH_2C(=O)Oethyl, -CH_2C(=O)pyrrohdinophenyl, -CH_2CH_2Ophenyl, -$CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2$-N-phthalimide, -CH_2C(=O)Ot-butyl, -CH_2CH_2CH(methyl)$_2$, -CH_2C(=O)NH_2, -CH_2-4-(SO_2CH_3)phenyl, -CH_2CH_2pyrolyl and benzyl.

22. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(ethyl)$_2$, -CH(n-propyl)$_2$, -CH(ethyl)(n-butyl) or -CH(ethyl)(n-pentyl).

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A method for treating a disorder manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof, comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 23.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the disorder is stroke.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the disorder is depression, anxiety disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, abnormal aggression, unstable angina, reactive hypertension, anorexia nervosa, bulimia, irritable bowel syndrome, stress-induced immune suppression, inflammation, Cushing's disease, substance abuse or withdrawal, infantile spasms, or epilepsy.